AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of generating an output document from structured-document information ~~composed of a plurality of elements~~ that is described in a structured-document description language such as HTML, XML or the like and is composed of blocks including a language-type declaration block, a document-type declaration block and a document entity block, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting document information from a document information source;

reading the blocks in said input document information;

analyzing tags and elements in the document entity according to the rule defined by the document-type declaration to convert the document entity to a tree structure;

evaluating a degree of significance for each element ~~included in said document information; selecting an element among said plurality of elements in a decreasing significance order;~~ [[and]]

~~placing the element on said output document~~ adding a result of the evaluation to the tree structure; and

generating the output document by reducing an information content of the input document information according to the result added to the tree structure.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of outputting said output document to an image outputting device or an image transmission device.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said image outputting device is a printing device or a display device, and said image transmission device is a facsimile device.

Claims 4-51 (canceled)

52. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes steps of selecting an element among said plurality of elements in a decreasing significance order; and placing the selected element on said output document.

53. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said evaluating step includes a step of evaluating a degree of significance of each element based on significance defining information described in said document information.

54. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said evaluating step includes a step of evaluating a degree of significance of each element based on a fixed significance-evaluating standard.

55. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes a step of limiting the element to be placed on said output document, based on a predetermined page size and a predetermined number of pages of said output document.

56. (new) The method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said limiting step includes a step of limiting the element to be placed on said output document so that a total space occupied by one or a plurality of selected elements on said output document is less than or equal to a space limit determined by the page size and the number of pages.

57. (new) The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said limiting step includes a step of continuing selecting the element until said total space exceeds said space limit; and eliminating a most-recently selected element from said output document.

58. (new) The method as claimed in claim 56, wherein said limiting step includes a step of continuing selecting the element until said total space exceeds said space limit; reducing a size of at least a part of said one or said plurality of selected elements so that said total space becomes less than or equal to said space limit; and placing said one or said plurality of selected elements on said output document.

59. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes a step of eliminating an element whose degree of significance is lower than a specific significance level.

60. (new) The method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said specific significance level differs with an attribute of said each element.

61. (new) The method as claimed in claim 60, wherein the specific significance level of a non-text element is higher than that of a text element.

62. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes steps of: keeping a text element; and eliminating a non-text element.

63. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes a step of compressing a non-text element by using a compression method corresponding to the degree of significance of said non-text element.

64. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes a step of compressing a non-text element at a compression rate corresponding to the degree of significance of said non-text element.

65. (new) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating the output document includes a step of eliminating a text element whose degree of significance is lower than a first significance level; and compressing a non-text element whose degree of significance is lower than a second significance level.

66. (new) A document-information processing device for generating an output document from structured-document information that is described in a structured-document description language such as HTML, XML or the like and is composed of blocks including a language-type declaration block, a document-type declaration block and a document entity block, comprising:

an input unit inputting document information from a document information source;

an evaluation unit for reading the blocks in said input document information, analyzing tags and elements in the document entity according to the rule defined by the document-type declaration, converting the document entity to a tree structure, evaluating a degree of significance of each element, and adding a result of the evaluation to the tree structure; and

a process unit for generating the output document by reducing an information content of the input document information according to the result added to the tree structure.

67. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit selects an element among said plurality of elements in a decreasing significance order and places the element on said output document.

68. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said evaluation unit evaluates a degree of significance of each element based on significance defining information described in said document information.

69. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said evaluation unit evaluates a degree of significance of each element based on a fixed significance-evaluating standard.

70. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit limits the element to be placed on said output document, based on a predetermined page size and a predetermined number of pages of said output document.

71. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 70, wherein said process unit limits the element to be placed on said output document so that a total space occupied by one or a plurality of selected elements on said output document is less than or equal to a space limit determined by the page size and the number of pages.

72. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 71, wherein said process unit continues selecting the element until said total space exceeds said space limit; and eliminating a most-recently selected element from said output document.

73. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 71, wherein said process unit continues selecting the element until said total space

exceeds said space limit; reducing a size of at least a part of said one or said plurality of selected elements so that said total space becomes less than or equal to said space limit; and placing said one or said plurality of selected elements on said output document.

74. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit eliminates an element whose degree of significance is lower than a specific significance level.

75. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 74, wherein said specific significance level differs with an attribute of said each element.

76. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 74, wherein the specific significance level of a non-text element is higher than that of a text element.

77. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit keeps a text element and eliminates a non-text element.

78. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit compresses a non-text element by using a compression method corresponding to the degree of significance of said non-text element.

79. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit compresses a non-text element at a compression rate corresponding to the degree of significance of said non-text element.

80. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit eliminates a text element whose degree of significance is lower than a first significance level; and compressing a non-text element whose degree of significance is lower than a second significance level.

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81. (new) The document-information processing device as claimed in claim 66, wherein said process unit compresses the elements with a compression rate varied according to a selected process mode.

82. (new) A document-information processing device for generating an output document from structured-document information that is described in a structured-document description language such as HTML, XML or the like and is composed of blocks including a language-type declaration block, a document-type declaration block and a document entity block, comprising:

means for inputting document information from a document information source;

means for reading the blocks in said input document information;

means for analyzing tags and elements in the document entity according to the rule defined by document-type declaration to convert the document entity to a tree structure;

means for evaluating a degree of significance of each element:

means for adding a result of the evaluation to the tree structure; and

means for generating the output document by reducing an information content of the input document information according to the result added to the tree structure.

83. (new) A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to generate an output document from structured-document information that is described in a structured document description language such as HTML, XML or the like and is composed of blocks

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including a language-type declaration block, a document-type declaration block and a document entity block, said program comprising the steps of:

inputting document information from a document information source;

reading the blocks in said input document information;

analyzing tags and elements in the document entity according to the rule defined by the document-type declaration to convert the document entity to a tree structure;

evaluating a degree of significance for each element;

adding a result of the evaluation to the tree structure; and

generating the output document by reducing an information content of the input document information according to the result added to the tree structure.